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THE AMERICAN EGRET IN JACKSON COUNTY, IOWA
From a painting by E. W. Steffen, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

AN IOWA NESTING COLONY OF THE AMERICAN EGRET

By JAMES R. HARLAN
Superintendent of Public Relations
Iowa State Conservation Commission
DES MOINES, IOWA

For at least the second successive year American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) are known to have made their summer home and successfully raised their young in an Iowa rookery. The colony is located in the Mississippi River bottoms in Jackson County, Iowa, about three miles above the town of Sabula and a mile west of the river channel proper.

For a number of years egrets have become increasingly common, after having been almost entirely absent from the state for nearly 20 years. Undoubtedly these egrets were first-year young that had come into the state from southern rookeries to fish, and were not from Iowa nesting birds.

The fact that egrets were nesting on Iowa's Mississippi bottoms was brought to the attention of the writer in a casual conversation in the latter part of July, 1942, with Conservation Officer Willys J. Morf, who in the company of Don Edlen had found the colony earlier in the year. At that time they estimated the birds as numbering 1,500 individuals, including Great Blue Herons. Inasmuch as the birds were no longer in the colony, it was impossible to verify the report or visit the nests that year. However, the nesting observation of Morf and Edlen for 1942 cannot be questioned.

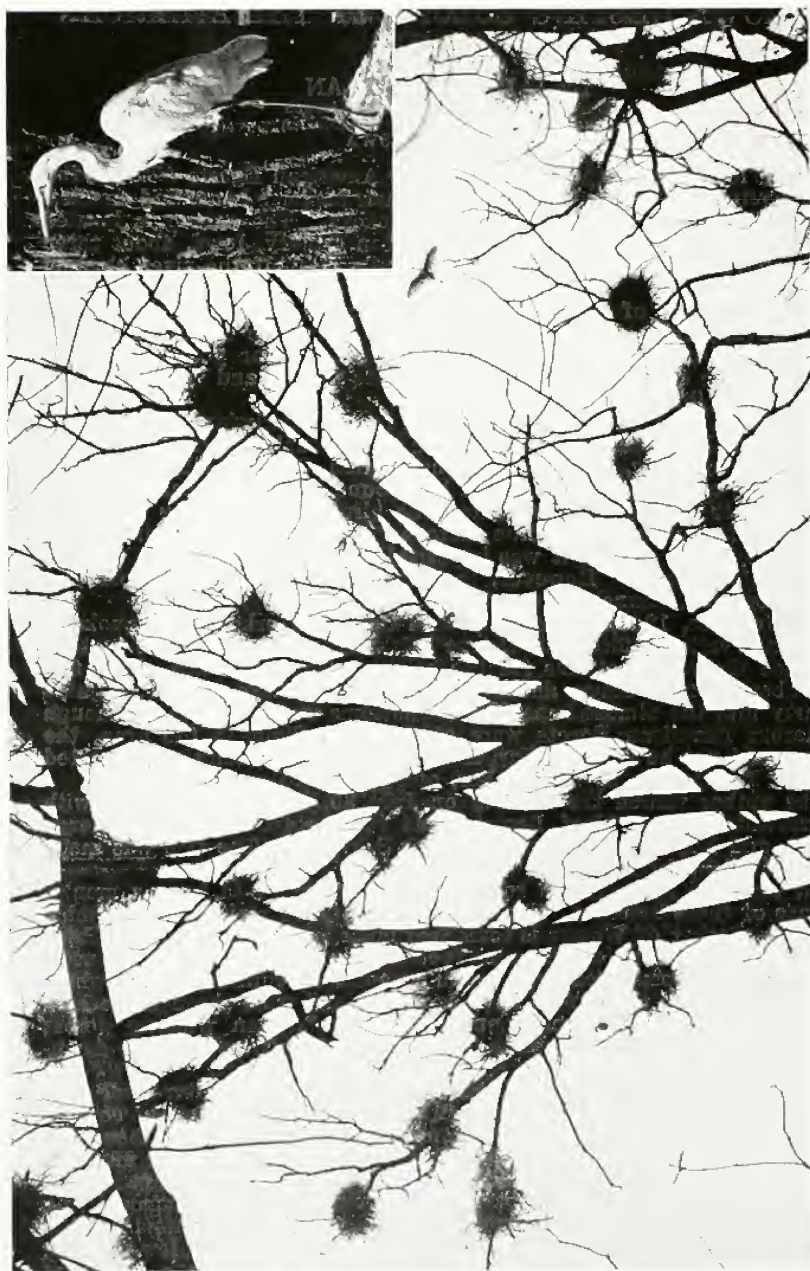
In late June, 1943, in company with Garfield Harker of Maquoketa, the conservation officer in charge of Jackson County, the author searched the river bottoms for the colony. The river was about five feet above normal stage, and many of the landmarks needed to guide a party into the almost impenetrable bottoms were missing. Although numerous American Egrets were observed in flight in the area, the nests could not be found. Harker later found the colony and directed Mrs. H. R. Peasley, E. B. Speaker, and Bruce Stiles to the site.

The author visited the rookery on July 30, 1943, in company with Conservation Officer Morf, Register and Tribune feature writer George Shane, and Register photographer Herb Schwartz. The trip was made by motor boat from Sabula.

To visualize this unusual rookery, it is necessary to have a mental picture of these bottoms. The flat, timbered flood plain through which flows the Father of Waters is some five miles wide at this point. Prior to the establishment of the nine-foot channel, the bottom was intersected by numerous "chutes", small streams of running water which break away from the parent river upstream and wind through the lowlands, occasionally flattening out into "lakes", then winding across the flood plain as fancy dictates to rejoin the Mississippi farther downstream.

With the building of the dams and the resultant water-level rise, this intertwining system of "chutes" and "lakes" was greatly complicated and deepened. As a consequence of the deeper water, thousands of great trees were drowned, and their naked skeletons now give the area a ghostliness rivaling the famous cypress swamps and everglades.

To add to the distressfulness of the bottom, the most common living vegetation, other than trees growing on the wet emergent land patches between "chutes", is poison ivy, both vining and as a low-growing bush. The latter is in such profusion as to appear as a luxuriant cultivated crop among the trees. It is in this eerie vastness that the egrets chose their housekeeping sites and built their rookery. The



IN THE AMERICAN EGRET ROOKERY

Nearly one-fifth of the 250 nests in the rookery are to be seen in this picture. One American Egret is in the air and others stand beside their nests. The inset shows the young egret, almost fully grown, that fell from the nest when the colony was visited. Photograph of nests by James R. Harlan; inset by Herb Schwartz.

nests are built in a cluster of giant dead cottonwood trees, for the most part standing in the shallow waters of one of the new "lakes".

As our party stepped out of the boat onto a narrow strip of wet ground that separated us from the edge of the rookery by about 200 feet, the hollow, discordant clamor of the young birds added to the impression that we were about to enter Inferno. Pushing on through the screen of poison ivy and low-growing trees to the margin of the tree-filled "lake", the panorama of the nest-loaded dead cottonwoods against the deep blue above appeared with a startlingness compared to a slide flashed on the screen. High overhead hundreds of the abysmal inhabitants were silhouetted against the sky. The fetid stench of decaying fish hung heavily on the air. As the birds noticed us, their weird clamor briefly increased in intensity and pitch. Many of the adult birds, like ghosts, left on unhurried wings.

We were immediately aware of splashes in the water under the nest trees. We assumed that these were droppings from the young birds; however, the writer investigated and found heavy masses of regurgitated, partially digested fish. In one particular instance the pellet consisted of three partially digested carp about 3½ inches long and one green sunfish somewhat smaller. In all the pellets subsequently examined carp was the principal component.

There were more than 50 nests on the ground or in the water under the trees. Some appeared to have been blown from the trees, but the majority were still attached to the dead limbs in which they were originally placed many feet above, and had come down almost intact. There were no egg fragments or remains of young in the vicinity, possibly because of the numerous raccoon that frequent the area.

It was estimated that the colony contained some 250 intact egret nests. This figure was arrived at by counting the nests in about one-third of the area. The nesting area itself was made up of some 40 trees covering approximately two acres. The nests were placed, for the most part, in exceedingly tall trees, with the lowest nests being approximately 50 feet from the ground, and some being in the tiptops more than 80 feet.

Although the young were about ready to leave the nests, more than 50 percent were still occupied with from two to four young. It is the author's observation that more than 60 percent of the live nests were occupied by American Egrets, and the remainder by Great Blue Herons. No other nesting birds were observed; however, Speaker identified two nests of the Black-crowned Night Heron the week before.

The author estimates that the probable number of American Egrets in this group is from 700 to 900 individuals.

While our party was taking photographs, the birds were greatly agitated and continued to regurgitate fish remains, the later pellets being more nearly digested than the ones first expelled. One almost fully grown young egret, with slapstick grotesqueness, lost its balance and with a few timid wing flaps sailed downward, catching a branch of a low tree, from which it hung suspended, head downward, for several seconds before dropping to the mud below. The bird was captured without much effort and required to pose for closeup photographs. It made several vicious strikes with its beak; but after a short period of captivity it was released. It ran a distance along shore, then waded out into the lake and sat quietly on a floating log.

A most interesting feature was the presence of large numbers of shed plumes. The author picked up more than 100 plumes in a small area, many of which had fallen on the water when the river was high and had drifted with the slow current to the lower edge of the lake, where they hung suspended on the branches and bark of young trees and poison ivy bushes. Hundreds more could have been collected.

Hornaday, in 'Our Vanishing Wildlife', quotes T. J. Ashe of Key West, Florida: "I have seen many molted and dropped feathers from wild plume birds, and I have never seen a molted or dropped feather that was fit for anything."

Hornaday also quotes Arthur T. Wayne of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina: "It is utterly impossible to get 50 egret plumes from any colony of breeding birds without shooting the birds. Last spring I went twice a week to a breeding colony of American and Snowy Egrets from early in April until June 8. In spite of the fact that I covered miles of territory in a boat, I picked up but two American Egret plumes . . ."

In the same book it is stated that the accounts of feather collectors picking up large numbers of plumes were preposterous and that such shed feathers were of very minor value. It is undoubtedly true that in feather-trade times the birds were killed for commercial plumes; however, of the more than 100 the writer picked up, perhaps a third of them could not be distinguished from plumes that had been taken from an adult bird in full breeding plumage that had been seized by conservation authorities.

Plumes that had been dropped on the muddy ground soon disintegrated. Of a number that were found, even the quill was of a consistency of wet chalk or soap and could not be picked up.

Although local observers believe that the Snowy Egret nests in this area, no nests were found and no observations were made of this bird. With careful search not a single plume identifiable as the Snowy was found. It is the author's belief that these observations are erroneous, although probably several sight records have been made of immature Little Blue Herons.

It is the writer's opinion that it would be unwise to encourage visitors to this colony. Occasional visitors might not be harmful, but constant interruption of the normal routine probably would be. Nesting birds are nervous. This fact, plus the nervous regurgitation of food by the young, especially during a period of food shortage, might be of sufficient importance to the birds to cause abandonment of the nesting site.

BIRDING WITH AN EXPERT

By MRS. M. L. JONES

Waubensie State Park
HAMBURG, IOWA

How many times I have heard a newcomer to the ranks of budding ornithologists exclaim: "If I could only go on a bird trip with an expert, he could help me *so* much to get started!"

I beg your pardon, but I disagree with you. Bird experts, even though they have the patience of Job, know too much and are too far advanced for the average beginner.

Never shall I forget my first trip with a noted ornithologist, or rather ornithologists. It was a state convention of bird enthusiasts and the main speaker on Friday was a man from New York—from the Audubon Society. He was to remain and lead the field trip on Saturday morning. For months I had looked forward to May seventh, and always this thought was uppermost in my mind—I'll really learn something about birds if I go on that trip.

Every day I warned myself: "Don't be too anxious. It will probably rain." But it didn't! It was a beautiful morning, sunny and warm, a perfect birding day. We gathered in front of the hotel after a hasty five-o'clock breakfast, and went by car to the woods along the river. The long-awaited day had begun and I stayed, like a faithful

dog, at the heels of the "expert" for he was to show me great things. "Hear that?" He held up his hand for silence. "A Cerulean Warbler." (Oh, *how* I had wanted to see a Cerulean Warbler. I had seen his picture many times.) "His song is somewhat like a burst of laughter," he continued. (No doubt the bird *was* laughing. He was in the very top of a 40-foot tree already dense with foliage.)

The Cerulean Warbler was checked on the list for the day (our leader knew it by its song), and the group moved on. I lingered, hoping that I might catch a fleeting glance of that singing bird, but I didn't. I had to hurry to catch up with the group and regain that coveted position directly behind the leader.

"Look!" came the command. Twelve binoculars focused on a flash of yellow. Eleven pencils checked "Yellow Warbler" on the lists. I was still trying to find what made the yellow flash, but it was gone.

A Bluebird twittered and flew from a dead branch to the ground and back to the branch. I had plenty of time to focus my glass and get a good look at him. He was a beauty, but I had seen Bluebirds. I wanted to see something I had never before seen.

Just beyond the bluebird in a small hawthorne tree I spied a tiny grayish bird and managed to get my glass focused on him. He was accommodating and moved slowly enough so that I could follow him. I casually mentioned my find. The leader raised his glass for an instant, then checked his list with the comment, "Warbling Vireo." Ah, here was a new one to me and I could really see him. I noticed his olive-green back and light breast. (At least that was the way the description read, but he looked more gray than green.) I knew I would remember him.

We came into a clearing opposite a bank where birds were swarming like bees. I knew they were swallows so I quickly checked "Bank Swallow".

"There's a Rough-winged Swallow," someone observed.

"That one that just flew close to the water is a Tree Swallow," said someone else.

I was bewildered. I looked at the check-list. Yes, there they were—five swallows were listed. Heretofore I had known two; Barn Swallow and Bank Swallow. I would have called all of these Bank Swallows.

"How can you tell the difference?" I asked timidly.

"The Bank Swallow has a dark band across the breast and the Rough-winged has a clear white breast. The Tree Swallow is the bright blue-green one," the leader patiently explained.



MARGARET (MRS. M. L.) JONES

In addition to being cook and housekeeper for husband Myrle, who is custodian of Waubesa State Park, Mrs. Jones is a very good ornithologist, a kodachrome photographer, and an efficient bird-banding assistant.

I tried to follow one long enough to see if he had a band across his breast, but they were too swift for me and the group was moving on.

A little grayish bird caught my attention. I glanced at it and said, "Another Warbling Vireo."

"Tennessee Warbler," pronounced the expert. I was ready to argue, but after all he should know, so I merely questioned, "How can you tell one from the other? They look just alike."

"Why, one is a warbler and the other is a vireo." He answered my questions in such a kindly manner, but he could not conceal his surprise at my stupidity.

The man just behind me offered a suggestion: "Warblers are very active and vireos are more sluggish." That sounded reasonable, so I made a note of it on the margin of my check list.

After that I did not name any birds aloud. When I saw old familiar friends such as Robins, Flickers and Crows I silently checked them.

When we met with the other groups at noon, a list was compiled of all the birds seen by the separate groups. The total was 149 species. Our group had listed 82, but if I had checked only the ones I had actually seen and identified, my total would have been about 12. That meant there were 149 birds around me; I had seen 11 familiar ones and had learned one new one.

As I walked wearily back to the hotel a little jingle formed itself and kept running through my mind:

Oh, abirding we will go,
Abirding we will go,
We'll catch a fleeting glance
Of a birdie on a branch,
And then away he'll go.

I repeat, if you want to learn something about birds, don't wait to go out with an ornithologist. Find someone who knows as much or a little more than you do, and go out together, often. Then, when you think you know all there is to know about birds, go out with an expert and you will really enjoy the trip. He will show you birds you have never seen, and when he points out an elusive little shadow and says, "There is an Orange-crowned Warbler," you will know that it is an Orange-crowned Warbler just because it acts like one, not because you saw it plainly enough to know it had a streaked breast.

GENERAL NOTES

Hudsonian Curlew in Winneshiek County.—On May 16, 1943, we saw a lone Hudsonian Curlew at close range about four miles north of Spillville, Iowa (to be more exact, one-quarter of a mile north of the "Bily Brothers Clocks Museum"). The curlew lit on a plowed field about 40 feet from the road, at which distance identification was positive. The huge, strongly down-curved bill and the dark line through the eye region were plainly visible. It was relatively tame, for when approached on foot, it would fly about 30 feet, drop to the ground and wait until approached again before repeating the short flight. The only Iowa record of the Hudsonian Curlew reported by DuMont in his 'Revised List of the Birds of Iowa' (1933) is the statement of Anderson that he had a specimen taken in Hancock County in 1895, but sometime after 1907 dermestids ate away some of the feathers and the bird was probably discarded.—NICHOLAS L. and MABEL E. CUTHBERT, Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Golden Eagle in Northwest Iowa.—In December, 1942, a young man by the name of Seifert, living about 16 miles northwest of Algona, Iowa, brought a large bird to Paul R. Wille, custodian of Call State Park, for identification. It proved to be an adult Golden Eagle. It had one wing injured and was unable to fly. The farmer had found

it in a grove unable to fly and in a very emaciated condition. Evidently it had been injured quite some time previously, probably by a shot from a small caliber rifle. Both the Bald and Golden Eagles are protected, and Mr. Wille took custody of the bird and placed it in a cage. It took about one rabbit a day to feed the eagle, which was larger than a turkey. Rabbits were shot by Mr. Wille for this purpose. A photograph of this Golden Eagle was published in the Algona 'Advance' on December 10, 1942. A letter from Mr. Wille in February described the condition of the eagle as very good and said the wing was healing satisfactorily. The practice of many unthinking people of shooting any large bird of prey is a very unwise one. Wherever circumstances warrant, prosecutions follow the shooting of eagles, as they are protected by law.—ZELL C. LEE, Sioux City, Iowa.

Early Bird Life in Clay County, Iowa.—Some interesting information on the early bird life of northern Iowa is contained in a letter to the writer (dated, August 30, 1917) from Franklin W. Calkins. These comments on various bird species by Mr. Calkins apply to Clay County, Iowa, between the years 1865 and 1885.

Snow Goose. Small flocks were occasionally seen from 1865 to 1880.

Baldpate, or Widgeon. Great numbers passed through in the spring and fall migrations.

Pintail. Flocks of thousands passed northward in the spring at least up to 1884; but never in autumn.

Canvas-back. They were occasionally seen from 1866 to 1880.

Ruffed Grouse. They were never seen in Clay County.

Wild Turkey. Only a single turkey was heard of in Clay County, and that was in Gillett Grove in 1867.

Whooping Crane ("White Crane"). Not known to nest, but thousands in annual flight, April and November.

Sandhill Crane. Great numbers passed through in autumn; many nested in Clay County from 1865 to 1880.

Golden Plover. Thousands of them in migration from the last of August to the first of October.

Black-bellied Plover. Never observed in Clay County.

Woodcock. A few in the larger groves along the Little Sioux River.

Long-billed Curlew. Nested in Clay County from 1865 to 1875, but was never numerous.

Upland Plover. Very numerous all summer up to 1876; literally shot out after the coming of the railroad.

Wild Pigeon. One flock of 27 was seen in 1866.

Little Green Paroquet. Was never seen in Clay County.—T. C. STEPHENS, Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa.

Nesting of the Chimney Swift in an Abandoned Farm House.—The Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) is recorded in Iowa as a common summer resident, nesting in all parts of the state. Because of the inaccessibility of nesting sites it is seldom that the bird student is treated to the opportunity of easy observation of its nesting activities. Most Iowa bird students know of Althea R. Sherman's Chimney Swift tower¹ and have read accounts of the swifts' nesting. Arthur Cleveland Bent² records a number of instances of the Chimney Swift nesting in such unusual places as outbuildings and old wells, but it is a treat for the casual observer to happen upon this most interesting bird when nesting under such circumstances.

During the first world war, the Army in expanding the area of old

¹Iowa Bird Life, 13 (2), 1943: 23-24.

²Bent, Arthur Cleveland. Life Histories of North American Cuckoos, Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds and Their Allies, 1940 (with chapter on the Chimney Swift by Winsor Marrett Tyler, pp. 271-293).

Camp Dodge to accommodate the yet unpredictable numbers of incoming recruits, purchased several hundred additional acres of adjacent farm land that was never used. The buildings were left where they stood, and as the years passed they gradually took on the semblance of our old familiar abandoned farm house known so well to bird students as an ideal location for Phoebe's. On July 4, 1943, while looking for a picnic spot with friends, I decided to explore one of these buildings. On the second floor, in the back of a small closet, a Chimney Swift had built its nest and was incubating five clear, white, elliptical-ovate eggs. The closet had a small window which opened on the side of the house. The glass pane was broken out and the swifts entered the house through this window. The nest, located about 18 inches below the ceiling, was made of dead twigs fastened together and securely glued to the wall by the glutinous saliva of the bird. It was a symmetrical, semi-saucer-shaped structure measuring three inches across the greatest inside dimension, and slightly more in its average outside width. The room was small and dark, and, while the adult bird seemed somewhat concerned about my presence, it was nevertheless reluctant to leave. Although I touched it, it did not immediately fly.

On July 23 there were five young. On July 31 the adult was there clinging to the wall beside the nest. It did not fly and again allowed me to touch it. By August 1 the young were nearly adult in size and it seemed impossible that so small a nest could hold them. Two of the young crawled out for a time and clung to the wall, braced by well-developed, sharp spines on the end of the rectrices. As if by a pre-arranged signal, they all set up a most unusual noise when approached, and then as suddenly stopped. The noise resembled that which might come from a den of rattlesnakes, stopping and starting at intervals. I visited the nest on the afternoon of August 10 and it was empty. Three well-developed young clung to the wall near by. The accompanying photograph was taken with a flash bulb on August 1, 1943, by Dr. Harold R. Peasley.—MRS. HAROLD R. PEASLEY, Des Moines, Iowa.



YOUNG CHIMNEY SWIFTS AT THE NEST

"Two of the young crawled out for a time and clung to the wall . . ."

Red Crossbills at Iowa State College Arboretum.—On January 16, 1943, Ray C. Erickson observed 30 Red Crossbills among the red pine trees in a coniferous grove at the southwest corner of the Arboretum. The birds were feeding on the seeds between the open bracts of the numerous pine cones. The sexes were of approximately equal numbers. The observer approached within six feet of the crossbills before they flew. Red Crossbills were seen again at that site on February 21 by Wilbur H. Engstrom, a second advanced wildlife management student. For utilization of the red pine and other conifers in wind-breaks, soil erosion control and woodlands obtain free, Extension Circulars 217, 222, and 223 from your County Extension Director or Extension Service, Iowa State College, Ames.—G. O. HENDRICKSON, Ames, Iowa.

Pileated Woodpecker in Clinton and Linn Counties.—On January 28, 1943, I was riding with Dr. Glenn Cunningham and two Cornell students. We had been noting signs of winter bird life as we rode along; I had pointed out a Cooper's Hawk and one or two Red-tails. Near the bridge across the Wapsipinicon River two and one-half miles west of Calamus, Clinton County, Iowa, we had a real experience. I had been watching idly a small flock of Crows when I suddenly became conscious that one bird at some distance to one side of the flock had an undulating flight. At my shout Dr. Cunningham put on the brakes and stopped at the side of the pavement. Fortunately for us, the bird was flying toward the highway. It crossed the road about 25 feet ahead of our parked car and about the same distance from the ground. It was a Pileated Woodpecker, and we had an excellent view of its long beak, slender neck, and its black and white coloring, in spite of the fact that it was four in the afternoon and cloudy. There is a considerable tract of timber along the river at this spot.

One other record of the Pileated Woodpecker in this region is known to me. In late November, 1938, a schoolboy brought to the local high school a recently killed bird of this species that he had picked up near the Ivanhoe Bridge across the Cedar River south of Mount Vernon. It was brought to the Cornell Biology Department for identification, was mounted by one of Dr. Brooks' students, and now has place in the Cornell College Museum. This is, to my knowledge, the only Linn County record. Dr. Charles R. Keyes informs me that he has never seen a Pileated Woodpecker in this area.—J. HAROLD ENNIS, Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa.

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—F. J. P.

RECENT BIRD BOOKS

WATERFOWL IN IOWA, by Jack W. and Mary R. Musgrove (Iowa Conservation Commission, Des Moines, 1943; cloth, pp. i-ix+1-122, with 8 colored pls. and numerous line drawings; price, \$1).

The primary purpose behind this book is the education of the hunter—to help him to identify and to know the ducks that he sees down his gun barrel. There are plenty of good books that cover the waterfowl, but they are mostly in the hands of ornithologists. A waterfowl book for the use of the hunter is a pioneer project, and we think our Iowa Conservation Commission is entitled to a great deal of credit for undertaking it. It has been suggested that the time is not propitious for bringing out such a book, because so many of the boys are hunting bigger game overseas. But there is a large army of older hunters still active in the field, and quite likely before the entire edition of 5,000 copies is finally distributed, it will reach a very wide audience of hunters and do much good in an educational way. It is fortunate that it can be sold for so low a price.

In opening the book one is impressed by the beauty of the eight colored plates, which depict in accurate form the various ducks, geese and swans that are found in Iowa, both in normal and eclipse plumages. The artist, Maynard F. Reece, is a newcomer among bird painters. He is now in military service, but we shall expect to see much more of his work when he returns to civilian life.

The written text is exactly what is needed in a book of this sort. It covers in a concise, uniform way the 37 species and subspecies of waterfowl found in Iowa, past and present. There is a brief but understandable description of the plumage of each, with reference to variations in male, female and juvenile forms in spring and autumn

plumages. Call notes are given and distinguishing field marks are pointed out. Notes on life history in abbreviated form cover migration dates and routes, breeding and winter ranges, nesting habits, and food. A final paragraph gives the Iowa status of each species—whether it is common or rare, and when and where it may be looked for. Special chapters take up the variations in plumage of waterfowl, the migration flyways, waterfowl enemies, and effects of lead poisoning. A key to duck plumages and an index complete the book. It is an authoritative little volume, admirably suited for the purpose intended. Paper, printing and binding are very good. Iowa bird students, as well as hunters, will find it well worth owning.—F. J. P.

* * * * *

LIFE HISTORY OF THE BLUE GOOSE, by J. Dewey Soper (Proceedings of Boston Society of Natural History, Boston, Mass., Vol. 42, No. 2, 1942; wrappers, pp. 121-225, pls. 15-26; price, \$1).

The Blue Goose is well known to Iowa bird students, especially those living in the western part of the state. This monograph is a very useful one. It covers in a thorough manner the geographical distribution and breeding range of the bird, and traces the spring and fall migrations to and from its Louisiana wintering grounds. The account of the spring migration through western Iowa is very interesting reading; it cites the observations of Dr. T. C. Stephens, Bruce Stiles and others who have studied the vast flocks of migrating Blue and Lesser Snow Geese along the Missouri River. The description of its nesting on Baffin Island in the far Arctic is given considerable space. The plates, mostly from photographs, add much to the book.

—F. J. P.

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ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE MOURNING DOVE, *Zenaidura macroura* (Linn.), IN CASS COUNTY, IOWA, by H. Elliott McClure (Research Bull. 310, Iowa State College, Ames, Feb., 1943; wrappers, pp. 353-415, with 36 tables).

A decrease in the numbers of Mourning Doves in the eastern and southern states has been noticed in recent years. In Iowa, however, the dove is one of the commonest summer residents and many of the birds remain in winter if food is available. This very complete report is the result of researches sponsored by Iowa State College and several wildlife conservation agencies. The observations were made in Cass County during 30 months of 1938, 1939 and 1940.

It was estimated that 73,000 adult Mourning Doves in Cass County produced 200,000 young each year. Nearly 4,000 nests were under observation; an average of 55 percent of the eggs was hatched, 82 percent of the young left the nests yearly, and 2 percent of the summer resident doves wintered in the county. Many young doves were banded and the returns are tabulated. The Mourning Dove's diet consists very largely of weed seeds, and so it is considered beneficial to agricultural interests. At the close of the report there is a list of suggestions for increasing the dove population—planting orchards and windbreaks, reducing the English Sparrow, and so forth. No doubt these are offered with a view to increasing the bird as a valuable ally of the farmer, and not with the thought that a shooting season can be opened as soon as it is plentiful enough. The Mourning Dove is classed as a game bird in a number of other states, and probably many hunters would like to have it available in Iowa.—F. J. P.

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R. M. Anderson's 'Birds of Iowa' (1907) contains much information on the distribution and migration of birds within the state and is still a valuable reference work. The Editor of 'Iowa Bird Life' has several copies of the book for disposal. Inquiries should be sent to Winthrop, Iowa.

MEMBERSHIP ROLL OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION*

CHARTER MEMBERS (1923)

Bailey, Mrs. Mary L., Sioux City	Palas, Arthur J., Postville
Banning, R. H., Cresco	Pierce, Fred J., Winthrop
Battell, Mrs. F. L., Ames	Spiker, Chas. J., Branchport, N. Y.
Bennett, Walter W., Los Angeles, Calif.	Stephens, Dr. T. C., Sioux City
Kinnaid, Mrs. W. A., West Des Moines	Wendelburg, Mrs. Toni R., Des Moines
Mills, Wier R., Pierson	Wolden, B. O., Estherville

MEMBERS

Allert, Oscar P., McGregor, 1929	Confare, Miss Miriam, Cedar Rapids, 1942
Anderson, Dr. Rudolph M., Ottawa, Canada, 1942	Copp, Miss C. Esther, Cedar Rapids, 1933
Austin, Dr. O. L., Tuckahoe, N. Y., 1931	Cordray, Miss Joyce, Waterloo, 1943 (J.M.)
Austin, Mrs. E. J., Charles City, 1942	Currier, Ed. S., Portland, Ore., '34
Ayres, Charles C., Jr., Ottumwa, 1941	Cuthbert, N. L., Mt. Pleasant, '42
Barlow, Mrs. John, Waterloo, '42	Dales, Mrs. Marie, Sioux City, '29
Bartlett, Wesley H., Eagle Grove, 1935	DeLong, Mrs. W. C., Clarion, '39
Baumgartner, Miss Jo, Des Moines, 1942	Dix, Mrs. Ray S., Cedar Falls, '35
Becker, Miss Hilda, Davenport, '26	Dole, J. Wilbur, Fairfield, 1929
Beckwith, Miss Alma, Atlantic, '39	Downing, Glenn R., Elkader, 1938
Berkowitz, Albert C., Des Moines, 1943	Dragoo, Lavina, Cedar Rapids, '29
Bice, Mrs. Don C., Atlantic, 1942	Dubuque Bird Club, Dubuque, '33
Binsfeld, Mrs. A. J., Des Moines, 1939	Dulany, Geo. W., Jr., Clinton, '43
Birkeland, Henry, Roland, 1933	DuMont, Mrs. Janet, Des Moines, 1927
Bishop, Dr. Louis B., Pasadena, Calif., 1934	DuMont, Philip A., Chicago, Ill., 1924
Bliese, John, Lincoln, Nebr., 1935	Eastman, Mrs. E. P., Burlington, 1929
Blosser, Mrs. Noah J., Patterson, 1927	Edgar, Mrs. G. P., Burlington, '39
Bordner, Mrs. Frances, Iowa City, 1929	Edge, Mrs. C. N., New York, N. Y., 1931
Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan L., Baldwin, Kans., 1937	Eifert, Eleanor, Cedar Falls, 1943
Buchanan, Borden C., Sioux City, 1941	Eighme, Miss Marietta, Ottumwa, 1943
Burk, Walter L., Vinton, 1931	Ellis, Ralph, Jr., Berkeley, Calif., 1933
Buzby, Mr. and Mrs. Wm., Boone, 1932 and 1929	Emigh, A. A., Atlantic, 1941
Chadbourne, Dr. T. L., Vinton, '38	Ennis, Dr. J. H., Mt. Vernon, '41
Clark, Mrs. Ella L., Burlington, '25	Errington, Dr. Paul L., Ames, '32
	Ewing, H. E., Washington, D. C., 1943
	Faulkner, Geo. O., Waterloo, 1931
	Ficke, Mrs. C. A., Davenport, 1929
	Flodin, Mrs. C. C., Cedar Rapids, 1931

*Complete to October 15, 1943. Year of joining the Union follows the name of each member. All cities are within Iowa unless otherwise noted. Junior Members are indicated 'J. M.' Corrections in the list will be appreciated.

- Frankel, Mrs. Henry, Des Moines, 1925
 Funk, Miss Ruth F., Independence, 1940
 Gessel, Mrs. E. C., Des Moines, '43
 Grant, Dr. Martin L., Cedar Falls, 1937
 Gross, Dr. Alfred O., Brunswick, Maine, 1942
 Grummann, Mrs. Herbert R., St. Louis, Mo., 1943
 Guion, Geo. Seth, New Orleans, La., 1933
 Hallowell, Miss Loraine, Waterloo, 1932
 Hanson, Mrs. Ernest W., Burlington, 1936
 Hantelmann, Salina, Waterloo, '40
 Harlan, James R., Des Moines, '42
 Hathorn, Glen M., Cedar Rapids, 1934
 Hattie, Miss Verona, Cedar Rapids, 1943
 Hemsley, Ethan A., Dubuque, '36
 Hendrickson, Dr. Geo. O., Ames, 1931
 Heuser, E. P., Dubuque, 1940
 Hicks, Dr. Lawrence E., Columbus, Ohio, 1938
 Hoskinson, Mrs. Helen H., Clarinda, 1940
 Hoyman, Miss Isabelle, Cedar Rapids, 1942
 Jahn, Mrs. Theodore L., Iowa City, 1943
 Johnson, Mrs. Martin A., Kelley, 1941
 Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. R. W., Dubuque, 1939 and 1927
 Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Myrle L., Hamburg, 1931 and 1941
 Keck, Dr. Warren N., Cedar Rapids, 1936
 Kent, Mrs. Wm., Cedar Rapids, '32
 King, Mrs. Helen G., Grundy Center, 1933
 Klinker, Mrs. P. J., Denison, 1937
 Knapp, George R., Vinton, 1940
 Knoop, Miss Pearl, Marble Rock, 1937
 Kubichek, Wesley F., Evanston, Ill., 1941
 Lahr, Mrs. H. W., Storm Lake, '43
 Lahr, Miss Margaret, Cedar Rapids, 1942
 Lambert, Mrs. Adaline T., Sioux City, 1940
 Laude, Dr. P. P., Iowa City, 1942
 Lee, Miss Zell C., Sioux City, 1943
 Lloyd, Monte, Sioux City, 1942 (J.M.)
 Loban, Miss Myra E., Waterloo, '38
 Loban, Miss R. Lucile, Waterloo, 1938
 MacMartin, Mrs. W. G., Tama, '32
 Mathis, Miss Grace, Elkhart, '42
 McCabe, Miss Olivia, Des Moines, 1932
 McCartney, Mrs. R. C., Charles City, 1942
 Melcher, Rev. M. C., Central City, 1939
 Meltvedt, Burton W., Paullina, '31
 Meyer, Dr. Alfred W., Cedar Rapids, 1942
 Michael, Maude, Waterloo, 1942
 Miller, Hilda E., Waterloo, 1940
 Moeran, E. H., Yonkers, N. Y., '40
 Morrissey, Thos. J., Davenport, '40
 Morton, Miss Thelma, Cedar Rapids, 1943
 Moser, Dr. R. Allyn, Omaha, Nebr., 1941
 Mote, Mr. and Mrs. G. A., Marshalltown, 1929
 Murley, Miss Margaret, Ames, '37
 Musgrove, Mr. and Mrs. Jack W., Des Moines, 1938 and 1943
 Myers, Mrs. Len, Waterloo, 1939
 Niemann, Miss Jane, Waterloo, 1943 (J.M.)
 Nichols, Harvey L., Waterloo, '29
 Oberholser, Dr. Harry C., Cleveland, Ohio, 1932
 Ollivier, Roy, Mt. Pleasant, 1943
 Orr, Ellison, Waukon, 1935
 Osher, Mrs. J. E., Estherville, '39
 Ottumwa Bird Club, Ottumwa, '43
 Parsons, Mrs. Robt. O., Dickens, 1942
 Peasle, Dr. and Mrs. Harold R., Des Moines, 1943 and 1934
 Peel, Clarence O., Dayton, 1941
 Perry, Miss Kathleen, Waterloo, 1943 (J.M.)
 Petranek, Mr. and Mrs. E. J., Cedar Rapids, 1931
 Pettingill, Dr. O. S., Northfield, Minn., 1937
 Purdy, Miss Ruth, Cedar Rapids, 1943
 Rector, Harry E., Independence, 1942
 Reynolds, Miss E. Estella, Des Moines, 1943
 Rich, Dr. Guy C., Hollywood, Calif., 1931
 Roberts, Dr. and Mrs. F. L. R., Spirit Lake, 1924 and 1926

- Roberts, Dr. T. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 1931
 Rosene, Walter, Jr., Gadsden, Ala., 1942
 Ross, Hollis T., Lewisburg, Pa., '40
 Ruegnitz, Mr. and Mrs. R. S., Dubuque, 1943 and 1942
 Ruhr, Eugene, Atlantic, 1941
 Safourek, Miss Lorene, South English, 1942
 Sage, Evan, Waterloo, 1942
 Schoenberg, Miss Helen E., Grimes, 1943
 Schramm, Frank H., Burlington, 1934
 Schuster, Miss Ival M., Dubuque, 1941
 Serbousek, Miss Lillian, Cedar Rapids, 1931
 Smith, Dwight, Des Moines, 1943
 Smith, Miss Irene M., Des Moines, 1943
 Steffen, Miss Emily, Cedar Rapids, 1942
 Steffen, E. W., Cedar Rapids, '42
 Stewart, Paul A., Leetonia, O., '43
 Stiles, Bruce F., Des Moines, 1937
 Stoner, Dr. Dayton, Albany, N. Y., 1937
 Struck, Dr. K. H., Davenport, '29
 Taylor, Mrs. H. J., Berkeley, Calif., 1939
 Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. O. S., Rock Rapids, 1929
 Thornburg, Mrs. Ross J., Tucson, Ariz., 1937
 Tillapaugh, Miss Iola, Cedar Rapids, 1942
 Tobin, John, Vinton, 1938
 Tonkin, George, Boston, Mass., '38
 Trump, Richard F., Keokuk, 1941
 Turner, Mrs. Stella, Clarinda, '42
 Walker, Pearl C., Ottumwa, 1943
 Weber, Alois John, Keokuk, 1929
 Weber, R. A., Keokuk, 1943
 Weiss, Billy, Waterloo, '43 (J.M.)
 Wilharm, Wanda M., Waverly, '38
 Willis, Miss Myra G., Cedar Rapids, 1940
 Witt, Miss Elizabeth, Elkader, '43
 Wolden, Mrs. B. O., Estherville, '39
 Young, Miss Beverly, Waterloo, 1943 (J.M.)
 Young, Miss Mary H., Waterloo, 1940
 Youngworth, Wm., Sioux City, '26

IN MILITARY SERVICE

- Adams, I. C., Jr., U. S. Army, '41
 Crabb, Dayle N., U. S. Navy, '42
 Crabb, Wilfred D., U. S. Navy, '37
 Davis, Floyd H., U. S. Navy, '42
 Goodman, John, U. S. Army, '41
 Graesing, Howard, U. S. Army, '39
 Guthrie, Richard A., U. S. Army, '39
 Heuer, Ralph, U. S. Navy, '40
 Johnson, Clifford O., U. S. Navy, '41
 Laffoon, Jean L., U. S. Navy, '40
 Mallette, Robt. D., U. S. Army, '42
 McDonald, Malcolm, U. S. Army, '35
 Pierce, Robert A., U. S. Army, '41
 Scott, Dr. Thos. G., U. S. Army, '37
 Sherwood, Jack W., U. S. Navy, '36
 Starr, Frank M., U. S. Navy, '42
 Sutton, Dr. Geo. M., Army Air Corps, '41
 Vane, Dr. Robt. F., U. S. Navy, '40

LIBRARIES*

- Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque, 1931
 Iowa State Traveling Library, Des Moines, 1940
 Kendall Young Library, Webster City, 1931
 Library, Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, 1939
 Library, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 1931
 McGill University Library, Montreal, Que., 1932
 Public Library, Cedar Rapids, '31
 Public Library, Council Bluffs, '31
 Public Library, Des Moines, 1931
 Public Library, Fort Dodge, 1936
 Public Library, Sioux City, 1931
 University of Illinois Library, Urbana, Ill., 1942

*Exchanges are not included in this list.

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

will be taken as usual between December 20 and 30. Study the form of censuses published in previous March issues. List birds in A. O. U. order, giving exact number seen, and include data on hours, weather and ground conditions. Send reports to Editor of 'Iowa Bird Life' not later than January 15.